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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present method provides a method for inhibiting restenosis associated with mechanical injury of a blood vessel. Human heme oxygenase I (HO1) is directly administered at the site of injury. The present inventors have discovered that carbon monoxide generated by HO1 is involved in the molecular pathogenesis of vascular proliferative disorders. By using adenoviral-mediated expression of inducible heme oxygenase 1 in primary vascular smooth muscle cells (vsmc) *in vivo*, the present inventors demonstrate that *in vivo* expression of HO1 can be used to treat restenosis.